

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2004.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign as a Member of the Science Committee.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCOUNTING OF CAPTURED OR MISSING U.S. PERSONNEL UNDER PROTOCOLS TO NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-164)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with Condition (3) of the resolution of advice and consent to the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, adopted by the United States Senate on May 8, 2003, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Congress that each of these governments is cooperating fully with United States efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting of captured or missing United States personnel from past military conflicts or Cold War incidents, to include:

(A) facilitating full access to relevant archival material; and

(B) identifying individuals who may possess knowledge relative to captured or missing United States personnel, and encouraging such individuals to speak with United States Government officials.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2004.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-165)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee

on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 1 of title I of Public Law 65-24, ch. 30, 50 U.S.C. 191, and sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to continue the national emergency declared in Proclamation 6867 of March 1, 1996, in response to the Cuban government's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba. Additionally, I have exercised my authority to expand the scope of the national emergency as, over the last year, the Cuban government, which is a designated state-sponsor of terrorism, has taken a series of steps to destabilize relations with the United States, including threatening to abrogate the Migration Accords with the United States and to close the U.S. Interests Section. This conduct has caused a sudden and worsening disturbance of U.S. international relations.

In my proclamation (copy attached), I have authorized and directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to make and issue such rules and regulations that the Secretary may find appropriate to prevent unauthorized U.S. vessels from entering Cuban territorial waters.

I have authorized these rules and regulations as a result of the Cuban government's demonstrated willingness to use reckless force, including deadly force, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty. I have also authorized these rules and regulations in an effort to deny resources to the repressive Cuban government that may be used by that government to support terrorist activities and carry out excessive use of force against innocent victims, including U.S. citizens and other persons residing in the United States, and threaten a disturbance of international relations. Accordingly, I have continued and expanded the national emergency in response to these threats.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes.

FUTURE OBLIGATIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today and every day, wage-earning, salary-earning Americans and small business owners across the country will pay 6.2 percent of every dollar they earn up to \$87,400 to Social Security, or twice that in the case of the self-employed. This is a heavy burden on the working, wage-earning, salary-earning people of America, particularly those of modest means. And again, it only falls on income below \$87,400 so those who earn \$3 million or \$5 million a year pay a tax at a fraction of the rate of someone who earns \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year.

The theory is that Social Security in collecting these funds will collect \$180 billion more than necessary to pay this year's benefits. That money is supposed to be set aside into a trust fund to meet the future obligations of Social Security. If all those moneys that have been set aside, and they are, unfortunately, just debt instruments, but if those debt instruments were honored, Social Security would have adequate funds to pay full benefits until the year 2042 under conservative assumptions, perhaps longer, and after that it would have a 23 percent shortfall. That is a problem, and we should deal with it.

But enter Mr. Greenspan, a gentleman who does not need Social Security, a gentleman who pays taxes at a fraction of the rate of average wage-earning Americans, a gentleman who does not know or socialize with anyone who needs Social Security. The fact is 20 percent of retired Americans are totally dependent on Social Security, and more than half would fall into poverty tomorrow if Social Security benefits were not there. Just 3 years ago the great Alan Greenspan said in supporting the President's reckless tax cuts which favor the wealthy, those who do not pay Social Security taxes in particular, those who invest for a living, he said that we could have it all; there was so much of a surplus, we could cut taxes on rich people, and we could still provide for Social Security benefits in the future.

Well, 3 years later, confronted with record deficits created by the Bush administration, Alan Greenspan, forever consistent, says the tax cuts should be made permanent, we should continue to borrow money, which we are doing, to finance tax cuts, but we can no longer afford Social Security, is what Mr. Greenspan says. So we are going to borrow money. In fact, this year we are going to borrow \$180 billion that is being paid in by working, wage-earning Americans as a surplus into Social Security, which will be immediately borrowed and spent. Some will be spent on things that are good that the government does; some will be spent to give tax cuts to wealthy people.

Mr. Speaker, it is a new kind of transfer tax. We tax wage-earning, salary-earning Americans on every penny of their income. We then overtax them,